TGG – History or how in …. did we get here?

TGG meeting – Grand Coulee Dam

October 27th and 28th, 2009

Where did we begin?

- Very high flow years in 1996 and 1997 (elevated TDG levels at border)

- TDG Impacts to net pen fish in Lake Roosevelt

- April 1998 TGG formed at international conference in Castlegar (*Towards Ecosystem-Based Management in the Upper Columbia River Basin)*

- GOAL – *"Reduce systemwide total dissolved gas to levels safe for all aquatic life in the most cost-effective manner possible"*

- 2 items: develop a TDG management plan for the transboundary region; and evaluate alternative gas

What did we do?

- May 1998 - The Systemwide Dissolved Gas Abatement Steering Committee was formed.

October 1998 - TGG formed technical workgroups. The four workgroups were:

- Biological Effects and Research
- Monitoring and Information Sharing
- Modeling (Computer Simulation's)
- Operational and Structural Abatement

- Set up TGG technical work groups with volunteer co-chair representatives to coordinate TGG activities.

- January 1999 – Biological literature review prepared

- May 1999 – Initial structural hydro-power inventory prepared

- June 1999 – Draft Study Plan with TGG goals and planning efforts

- March 2000 – Letter of support to CPC from US TGG participants supporting Brilliant Dam expansion plans

- May 2000 – After review TGG Framework Plan presented to the BC/WA Environmental Cooperation Council

What did we do?

- June 2000 –Framework Plan for Coordinating Activities of the Columbia River Transboundary Gas Group

Participants:

US EPA
Idaho DEQ
Oregon DEQ
Washington DOE
US Bureau of Reclamation
US Army Corps of Engineers
BPA
US NMFS
Chelan County PUD
Grant County PUD
Seattle City Light
Confederated Tribes

Environment Canada
BC MoE
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
B.C. Hydro
Colombia Power Corporation
Cominco Ltd.
West Kootenay Power
RL&L Environmental Services
Aspen Applied Sciences
AVISTA
Colville

What was the plan?

Phase 1 Objectives

- Inventory of facilities and possible gas abatement measures
- Develop TGD database of monitoring/research to support models – Intergration of Canadian databases and the SYSTDG Model
- Develop screening-level simulation models to evaluate river gas conditions and potential gas abatement structures
- Recommend possible implementation of operational measures at individual facilities for short-term improvement
- Potential to expand the lower river system spill priorities to include the transboundary area

How far did we get on the plan?

Accomplishments

- CRIEMP Report (July 2002) – “Fisheries Resource Information and TGP Risk Assessment for the Canadian Portion of the lower Columbia River Basin”
- Teck - “TGP monitoring at Waneta Dam – 1999 investigations” and other monitoring over the years
- BC Hydro – Various studies
- CPC – Various studies
- In Canada numerous upgrades and expansions have been completed at HKD, Brilliant, Waneta with additional expansion at Waneta in the works.
- In the US project upgrades on the Columbia, Snake and Pend Oreille Basins were accomplished. The biggest of these for reduction of TDG was the Power Trade agreement between Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams.Also compliance with the Biological Opinion RPA’s of the 1995, 1998, 2000, 2004 BiOPs

How far did we get on the plan?

Accomplishments

- Short –term operational measures analysis – Completed
- Modeling/Plan Integration – SYSTDG Complete (Live Model)
- “Treaty Implications of Dissolved Gas Management in the Columbia River Basin”, R.M Goldschmid, June 27, 2001
- 2009 TDS assessment at the Ruskin Dam

Where are we going?

Ongoing Objectives

- Information Exchange

- At the TGG Spring meeting in 2001 and again at the Fall meeting in 2004 the question came up: “Has the TGG reached a point where they need to expand into other Water Quality issues rather than just Total Dissolved Gas? In response the TGG considered a variety of Transboundary water quality issues that might benefit from application of the TGG approach to technical issues. This expanded scope would require recruiting new TGG membership and expertise in fields such as egg, agriculture, forestry, mining, land use, municipal waste, and water treatment this led the TGG to conclude that we can better serve our agencies and the resources by a continued focuse on our original technical objectives.

Where are we going?

Discussion Points and Key Questions:

Again this year it was brought before the TGG Steering Committee that maybe the TGG had served it's purpose and there was nothing more for the TGG to do. Discussion Points are:

- The overall, long term goal of the TGG is to: "Reduce system-wide TDG to levels safe for all aquatic life in the most cost effective manner possible."
- The TGG is a technical group.
- The TGG members realize benefit of membership through information sharing, education, communication and cooperation.
- The TGG has been focusing its efforts on the four projects:
  - Project #1: Characterize Transboundary existing gas conditions
  - Project #2: Identify data and informatioin needs for screening models.
  - Project #3: Identify structural alternatives for transboundary gas planning.
  - Project #4: Transboundary dissolved gas management status.

Where are we going?

Questions to consider for discussion:

- Are our organizations supportive of our continued membership and TGG Functions?
- Is there enough happening to warrant our meetings?
- What are individuals and their entities taking home from the TGG?
- Has the original/current purpose of the TGG been served?
- Or go for more beer/Expresso?